

**BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Petition for Reduction of Penalty by:

SIMRANDEEP S. BHULLAR dba STAR VALLEY SMOG

1506 N. Blackstone Avenue

Fresno CA 93703

Mailing address:

2830 E. Trenton Avenue

Fresno, CA 93720

Automotive Repair Dealer Registration No. ARD 280083

Smog Check Test Only Station License No. TC 280083

and

GURPREET SINGH CHAUHAN

1506 N. Blackstone Avenue

Fresno, CA 93703

Smog Check Inspector License No. EO 147842

Smog Check Repair Technician License No. EI 147842

Respondents.

Case No. 79/21-6008

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DECISION

The Director of Consumer Affairs (Director) adopted the Proposed Decision After Remand against Respondents, case number 79/17-20670, on May 5, 2020. In that decision, Respondents were joint and severally responsible for \$15,000 in cost reimbursement. This was a reduction in costs, granted due to Respondents' successfully defending against some causes of action, and Respondent Chauhan's financial hardships.

The Director adopted the Proposed Decision in the above-captioned matter on October 12, 2022. In that decision, Respondents were joint and severally responsible for an additional \$7,500 in cost reimbursements. This was a reduction in costs, granted due to Respondents' successfully defending against some causes of action, and Respondent Chauhan's financial hardships. Pursuant to these orders, Respondent's are joint and severally responsible for reimbursing the Bureau of Automotive Repair \$22,500.

On or about February 2, 2023, the Director received Respondent Chauhan's petition for further reduction in penalty. The Bureau of Automotive Repair objected.

Two Administrative Law Judges heard evidence and accepted Respondent Chauhan's claims of financial hardship. As a joint and several award, Respondent could ultimately pay \$0 if Respondent Bhullar paid in full, or up to \$22,500 if Respondent Bhullar did not contribute to the reimbursement. Respondent Chauhan's inability to determine what percentage, if any, he would be responsible to pay of the reimbursement and payment plans to that effect do not create stability for repayment while financially burdened. Therefore, the joint and several

awards will be divided between the two Respondents so that each must reimburse the Bureau of Automotive Repair to satisfy probation requirements.

Respondent Bhullar did not claim financial hardship. Respondent Bhullar shall reimburse the Bureau of Automotive Repair \$15,500 for investigation and enforcement costs of the two matters. Respondent Chauhan shall reimburse the Bureau of Automotive Repair \$7000 for investigation and enforcement costs of the two matters. Pursuant to the terms of probation, both Respondents shall satisfy their specified reimbursement requirement no later than six months prior to the expiration of the probationary period.

IT IS SO ORDERED June 13, 2023.

Rodriguez,
GraceArupo@DCA

Digitally signed by Rodriguez,
GraceArupo@DCA
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GRACE ARUPO RODRIGUEZ
Assistant Deputy Director
Legal Affairs Division
Department of Consumer Affairs